

County of Los Angeles  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES**

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June 20, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

SUBJECT: **REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM FOR THE HOMELESS, ELDERLY, AND DISABLED USING ELECTRONIC BENEFIT (EBT) CARDS TO PURCHASE PREPARED MEALS (BOARD ORDER #38 - FEBRUARY 4, 2003)**

This is to provide you with an update on the Restaurant Meals Program for Homeless, Elderly, and Disabled Food Stamp Participants using Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Cards to purchase prepared meals. As you may recall, the Restaurant Meals Program allows homeless, elderly, and disabled Food Stamp participants to purchase prepared meals using their EBT cards at restaurants that have a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County and have been certified by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) to accept Food Stamp benefits.

The Restaurant Meals Program for the Homeless, Elderly and Disabled was implemented in Los Angeles County on July 25, 2005. Since that time, we signed MOUs with 273 restaurants serving a variety of cuisines. There are currently 153 restaurants serving participants and another 120 restaurants pending certification from the USDA, FNS and approval by DPSS.

Staff is actively working to recruit restaurants into the program. MOUs were signed with 67 restaurants as a result of the presentations held in April 2006. McDonalds' Corporate Office continues to express interest in participating in our program once EBT-related issues with their business systems are resolved. Staff will also meet with Taco Bell corporate during June to discuss participation in the Restaurant Meals Program.

Updated restaurant listings were provided to district offices and community partners in May 2006 for distribution to eligible participants.

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The Web Page for the Restaurant Meals Program has been approved and can be viewed on the Food and Nutrition Web Page of the DPSS Website at [http://www.ladpss.org/dpss/restaurant\\_meals/](http://www.ladpss.org/dpss/restaurant_meals/). Visitors to the website will find information on the Restaurant Meals Program, information for restaurant owners who are interested in joining the program, questions and answers, who is eligible, and the list of participating restaurants.

I will provide you with our next semi-annual report in January 2007.

BY:bs

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors